

the present smart of humiliation, however deep the present disappointment of lost sacrifices and desires, will be found so devoid of perspicuity and sense as to bind Russia to an alliance which would range the world against her, and which, if successful in its object, would, after incredible exertion, place upon the eastern flank of her empire in Asia the same Power which aims at dominating her western flank in Europe?

It is perfectly logical first to argue the incompatibility of a Russo-German combination in regard to the ultimate desires and ambitions of both peoples. That incompatibility is then made even clearer in relation to immediate considerations of world-polity, particularly in regard to the balance of power in Europe. At present it is Russia which grips Germany upon both flanks—through the Franco-Russian Alliance. No wrestler in the grip of his adversary has ever struggled with greater force and intuition than Germany in her recent efforts to disengage or paralyse the left arm of Russia—in her French ally. While Germany encouraged and aided Russia in a struggle that utilised the strength of the right arm of Russia to further her own Imperial aims in the Far East, which would enable her in turn to grip Russia upon both flanks, she utilised the occupation and the fancied exhaustion of that arm as an opportunity to free her own western flank from the possibility of Russian menace. She has used all her cunning and sleight upon that arm of Russia which, despite her efforts ten thousand miles away, still preserved intact her influence in Europe—through the power of France. The incident of Morocco, upon which the German attack, directly upon France and indirectly upon Russia, was based, is fresh in the minds of men. Its developments are current history, a detailed reference to it is, therefore, unnecessary. But it bears directly upon the issue in point—that of the possibility of a Russo-German combination—through results which were certainly unforeseen by those responsible for the German policy with regard to this question. For the whole matter has roused France to feelings of intense resentment and anger against